

Frontline *Duty*

Airmen's mission keeps them busy

In the rugged mountains of Afghanistan, Airmen are doing a lot more than dropping bombs on insurgents. They're also helping Afghans cope with everyday needs.

In one area in the rugged Hindu Kush mountain range, members of the Panjshir Provincial Reconstruction Team, which includes many Airmen, trekked over a pass to set up medical clinics in a remote village. They even used donkeys to take the villagers food and other supplies.

"By bringing our doctor and medics to the village, we're able to provide some care for them, even if that means climbing a mountain," said team commander Lt. Col. Christopher Luedtke.

This is just one of the many jobs Airmen do, and just one example of the kind of attitude Airmen demonstrate in other parts of the world each day.

Whether it's delivering new F-22 Raptors to Alaska, or armored vehicles to Iraq to help U.S. forces be safer, training with their allies, keeping airplanes flying or providing humanitarian aid in Peru — Airmen are doing their part.

Standing tall and at attention, Tech. Sgt. Richard Rositas holds the Stars and Stripes during a change-of-command ceremony at Balad Air Base, Iraq. The sergeant is a member of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing honor guard.

by Senior Airman Clay Lancaster



A Turkish Airman waves his country's flag after finishing the 1.5-mile run portion of the fit-to-fight competition, part of Air Mobility Command's Rodeo 2007. Held at McChord Air Force Base, Wash., in July, more than 55 air mobility teams from the Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and 19 allied countries took part in the readiness exercise that tests airdrop and air refueling skills and security forces, aerial port, maintenance and aeromedical evacuation operations.

by Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Lock



One of the first responders to reach Peru after a massive earthquake almost destroyed the city of Pisco, pediatric nurse practitioner Maj. Joseph Hallock went right to work treating the wounded. The major was part of a medical team deployed to Pisco in mid-August to help in the aftermath of the 8.0-magnitude quake that killed more than 500 people. Team members came from Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras, and Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas.

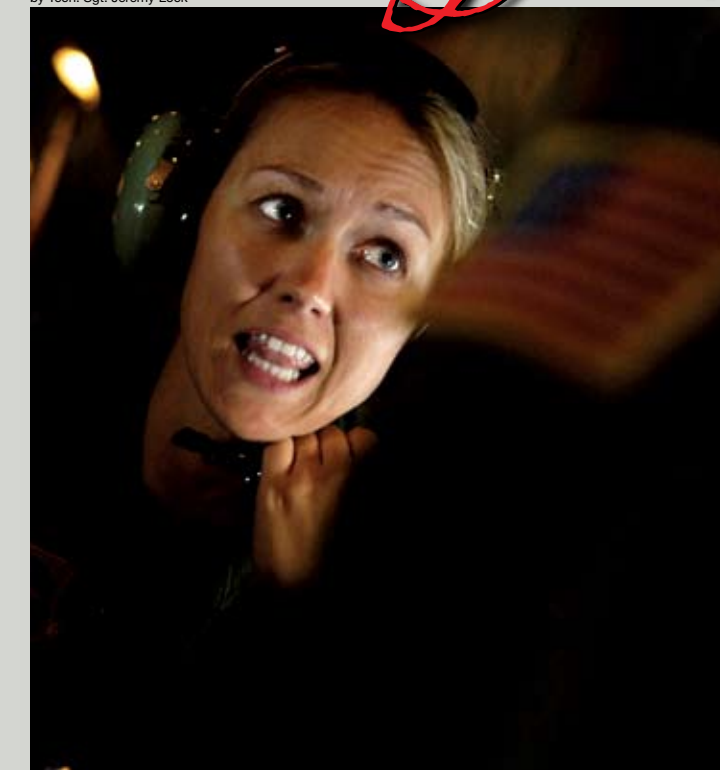
by Airman 1st Class Nicholas Pilch



To fill up a huge C-17 Globemaster III transport in July, Airman 1st Class Michael Brown must use a heavy-duty refueling nozzle. But it's a familiar job for the Airman of the 437th Logistics Readiness Squadron at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C. The squadron keeps the base fleet of transports flying their worldwide mission.

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Before taking part in an aeromedical evacuation event, an umpire briefs Capt. Lisa Palmer and her team about the medical scenario in which they will participate. The briefing took place aboard the team's C-130 Hercules aircraft during Air Mobility Command's Rodeo 2007 held at McChord Air Force Base, Wash., in July.

Pararescuemen carry their heavy load of equipment on a litter as they arrive to take part in a mass casualty exercise in Playas, N.M., in July. The Airmen from the 304th Rescue Squadron, Portland, Ore., tested their combat search-and-rescue skills during a mass casualty exercise and other events held during Exercise Angel Thunder.



by Senior Airman Christina Ponte

Checking a little girl's throat is no easy task, so medical technician Tech. Sgt. Jenina Rose gets help from the girl's mother. A member of the Panjshir Provincial Reconstruction Team, the sergeant and fellow team members made an 11-mile round trip trek from their camp at Forward Operating Base Lion in the Hindu Kush mountain range to the Afghan village of Roydara to provide medical care in August.

by Master Sgt. Jim Varhegyi



by Staff Sgt. Jason Robertson



Airmen get ready to load the tough, new mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicle, or MRAP, onto a C-5 Galaxy at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., for transport to Iraq in August. An estimated 1,500 of the vehicles, designed to survive an improvised explosive device detonation, will be in service in Iraq by Dec. 31. Roadside bombs are the biggest killers of U.S. servicemembers in Iraq.